Nov. 24, 2000

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive met on November 24 in St. John's. This issue of Executive Notes is designed to provide you with a summary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at this meeting. For further information on any of these issues, please contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

Collective Bargaining
NLTA served notice the first week of November re: its desire to commence negotiations. A reply has been received from Treasury Board that negotiations will commence as soon as possible. The NLTA Negotiating Team will meet in St. John's the week of November 27 for extensive training and information sessions. It is expected that negotiations will begin in January. Executive will devote time at the January Executive meeting to planning deadlines and strategies for the upcoming round of negotiations with the aim of ensuring that a collective agreement is completed in a timely fashion.

For further information contact Fred Andrews, President or Edward Hancock, Assistant Executive Director.

Association Priorities
An updated copy of priorities for 2000-01 was provided to Provincial Executive which included items actioned or completed to date. As indicated in previous issues of Executive Notes the Association priorities for this year include: concluding a collective agreement; quality of work life; classroom issues— workload; membership involvement/identification with NLTA; and communications: internal/external relations — building partnerships. Detailed discussion took place on the priorities with specific mention of NLTA media campaigns and negotiations.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Teacher Certification Committee
A meeting of the Teacher Certification Committee took place on October 30. Provincial Executive members were asked to review some documentation on the NLTA's position on a number of certification issues in preparation for a discussion at the January Executive meeting.

For further information contact Winston Carter, Vice President or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Workload Study Committee
The NLTA continues to pursue the carrying out of the workload study under Schedule P — Workload of the current collective agreement. If there is no further progess by the January Executive meeting re: the conducting of the workload study then the Association will recommend that an independent study be implemented immediately.

For further information contact Wayne Lee, Chair, Workload Committee or Lloyd Hobbs, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Business from Standing Committees
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE
Members of school board-teacher liaison committees are asked to contact teachers in their area at least two weeks prior to committee meetings seeking input in preparation for the next meeting agenda. Forms should be located in each school for this purpose. Minutes of school board-teacher liaison committee meetings should also be distributed to each staff in the region represented by the committee as outlined in the School Board-Teacher Liaison Handbook.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, Chair, Membership Benefits and Services Committee or Geralyn Costello, Assistant to the President.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

- In addition to responses from Special Interest Councils, feedback will be obtained from Program Implementation Specialists for Primary and Program Implementation Specialists for Literacy/Reading to obtain their reaction to the proposed primary grade time allocations, based upon their own experience, pedagogical considerations, and consultation with teachers and administrators in their districts.
- The President will write the Minister of Education indicating that NLTA is studying the Department of Education's proposed time allocations for primary grades, in response to some concerns that have been raised, and will consult widely with the field before taking a final position. The letter will request that government delay the implementation of these time allocations until consultation has taken place with the Association and others.
- The membership will be notified that NLTA is studying the Department of Education's proposed time allocations for primary grades, based upon some concerns which have been raised, and will be developing a position in the near future. As part of this communication, members will be invited to submit their reaction to these proposed changes.
- NLTA will develop an agreement with the Department of Education, similar to that developed by the NSTU, regarding the APEF questionnaire on Language Arts. The details of the Association's concerns and ensuing conditions will be communicated to the membership prior to administration of the questionnaire.
  For further information contact Ken Kavanagh, Chair, Curriculum Committee or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for January 12 and 13, 2001 in St. JohnÕs. For further information contact Fred Andrews, President or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

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